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INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-03 ADP-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 RSR-01

RSC-01 /030 W

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PR 221151Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5914

INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION GENEVA

DEA HQS WASHDC

AMEMBASSY SAIGON BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE BY POUCH

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI BY POUCH

AMCONSUL UDORN BY POUCH

AMCONSUL HONG KONG BY POUCH

SECRETSECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 13117

EO 11652: GDS TAGS: OREP, SNAR

SUBJECT: CODEL WOLFF VISIT TO THAILAND

REF: A. BANGKOK 12888, B. VIENTIANE 5719

SUMMARY: CODEL WOLFF VISITED BANGKOK, UDORN, VIENTIANE, CHIANG RAI, AND CHIANG MAI AUGUST 12-17. THE CODEL'S INTERESTS IN THAILAND INCLUDED NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING BY TRAWLERS, AN AERIAL SURVEY OF OPIUM GROWING AREAS IN NORTHERN THAILAND, INCOME SUBSTITUTION FOR HILLTRIBES, UN PROGRAMS, ALLEGED PRC INVOLVEMENT IN TRAFFICKING, CHINESE IRREGULAR FORCES (CIF) INVOLVEMENT IN THE TRAFFIC, AND U.S. MILITARY DRUG PROBLEMS. CODEL MEMBERS SAID THEY WERE FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH RTG EFFORTS IN NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION BUT THAT MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE. THE MEMBERS ALSO QUESTIONED ON ARRIVAL WHETHER AID HAD ADEQUATE FLEXIBILITY TO MOVE SECRET

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RAPIDLY IN PROGRAMS TO END GROWING AND TRAFFICKING OF OPIUM AND ITS DERIVATIVES. COMPLAINTS BY THAI OFFICIALS ABOUT SLOWNESS OF AID AND "TOO MANY SURVEYS" PROBABLY BOLSTERED THE CODEL'S CONCERN. END SUMMARY.

1. ITINERARY. CODEL WOLFF, LED BY REP. LESTER WOLFF AND INCLUDING AT VARIOUS TIMES REP. CHARLES RANGEL, REP. MORGAN MURPHY, REP BELLA ABZUG, REP. FORTNEY STARK, AND HFAC STAFF CONSULTANT DR. JOHN BRADY, ARRIVED IN BANGKOK LATE ON AUGUST 12. AFTER BRIEFINGS AT THE EMBASSY THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE MEMBERS (MINUS REP. WOLFF, WHO MADE A SIDE TRIP TO PHNOM PENH) DEPARTED EARLY AUGUST 14 FOR UDORN, WHERE THEY ATTENDED A BRIEFING ON U.S. MILITARY DRUG ABUSE PROGRAMS AMONG U.S. PERSONNEL AT THE AIR BASE. REP. WOLFF REJOINED THE GROUP AT VIENTIANE AT MIDDAY (SEE REF. B FOR THE VIENTIANE POR-TION OF CODEL WOLFF'S VISIT). REP. ABZUG LEFT CODEL WOLFF IN VIENTIANE; REP. MURPHY SPENT AUGUST 15 SEPARATELY IN LAOS BUT REJOINED THE CODEL THAT EVENING IN BANGKOK. THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF THE CODEL DEPARTED VIENTIANE EARLY AUGUST 15 FOR CHIANG RAI WHERE AMERICAN AND THAI OFFICIALS MET THEM. THE GROUP TRAVELLED IN TWO HELICOPTERS TO CHIANG SAEN, FLEW ALONG THE MEKONG RIVER TO THE MAE SAI RIVER, AND ALONG THE MAE SAI RIVER TO THE TOWN OF MAE SAI. FOLLOW-THIS, THE GROUP FLEW TO CHIANG MAI FOR A MEETING WITH OFFICERS RUNNING THE UN CROP SUBSTITUTION PROJECT AND A BRIEF VISIT TO THE THAI POLICE SPECIAL NARCOTICS ORGANI-ZATION HEADQUARTERS. RETURNING TO BANGKOK THAT EVENING, THE CODEL CALLED THE NEXT MORNING ON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PRAPHAT CHARUSATHIEN AUGUST (REFTEL A), FOLLOWED BY A LUNCHEON AT THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE WITH THAI OFFICILAS. THE CODEL (MINUS REP. MURPHY WHO STAYED IN BANGKOK UNTIL AUGUST 19) DEPARTED BANGKOK FOR HONG KONG AUGUST 17.

2. TRAWLERS. AS THE MISSION BRIEFING WE DESCRIBED RECENT
THAI POLICE SUCCESSES IN CUTTING DOWN ON OPIUM AVAILABLE
FOR SHIPMENT FROM THAILAND TO HONG KONG BY TRAWLER. THE CODEL REEATEDLY STRESSED THAT IT WANTED EVIDENCE THAT THIS TRAWLER TRAFFIC
HAD REALLY BEEN DISRUPTED. WE ANSWERED THAT (1) THE PRICE OF HEROIN
HAD RECENTLY RISEN IN HONG KONG, (2) HONG KONG POLICE HAVE SAID
THAT NO TRAWLERS HAVE ARRIVED WITHIN THE LAST 7 WEEKS, (3)
INFORMANTS TELL US THAT RECENT SEIZURES HAVE GENERATED SUSPICION
SECRET

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WITHIN THE TRAFFICKERS RANKS, (4) THE RTG HAS RECENTLY MADE SEVERAL LARGE SEIZURES OF OPIUM AWAITING PICK-UP BY TRAWLER, AND (5) A KNOWN SMUGGLER WAS RECENTLY SHOT, PRESUMABLY AS A RESULT OF INTERNAL SQUABBLES.

3. THE CODEL REPEATEDLY ASKED WHETHER ALTERNATIVES ROUTES WERE BEING USED TO GET OPIUM FROM THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE TO HONG KONG'S LARGE ADDICT POPULATION AND BEYOND. THE DEA REGIONAL DIRECTOR POINTED OUT THAT THE DIFFICULT TERRAIN AND POLITICAL SITUATION MADE LAND ROUTES THROUGH BURMA, LAOS, OR VIETNAM DIFFICULT, THOUGH THESE WERE POSSIBLE IF SUPPRESSION CONTINUES TO INCREASE IN THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE AREA. HE MENTIONED ALSO THAT ANOTHER POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE

TO THE PRESENT TRAWLER ROUTE TO HONG KONG WAS SHIPMENT TO SINGAPORE BY EITHER LAND OR SEA. AND MOVEMENT ON TO HONG KONG ON CARGO SHIPS. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH COL. CHAVALIT YODMANEE, DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE THAI POLICE CENTRAL BUREAU OF NARCOTICS, REP. WOLFF EXPRESSED HIS VIEW THAT IT SHOULD BE EASY TO SEIZE THE OFFENDING TRAWLERS SINCE THEY DEPART FROM THE PORT OF BANGKOK AND THEIR IDENTITIES ARE KNOWN. CHAVALIT EXPLAINED (AND WE ALSO WENT OVER THIS IN THE EMBASSY BRIEFING) THAT OPIUM-CARRYING TRAWLERS DEPART FROM MANY LOCATIONS ALONG THE GULF OF SIAN. AND THE TRAFFICKERS FREQUENTLY CHANGE TRAWLERS. AS WELL AS METHODS AND LOCATIONS OF LOADING. CHAVALIT SAID THERE ARE 30,000 TRAWLERS IN THE GULF OF SIAM AND IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO CHECK ALL OF THEM. REP. WOLFF, PICKING UP A POINT MADE IN OUR BRIEFING, SAID THAT ONCE THEY TURN NORTH ALONG THE COAST OF VIETNAM, THEY ARE OBVIOUSLY NO LONGER FISHING.

4. AERIAL SURVEY. THE CODEL REPEATEDLY STATED THAT AN AERIAL SURVEY OF THE POPPY GROWING AREAS OF THAILAND IS NEEDED TO DETERMINE HOW MUCH OPIUM IS PRODUCED AND ASKED WHY THE RTG REJECTED THIS SURVEY. WE EXPLAINED THAT THE USG HAD OBTAINED RTG AUTHORITY FOR AN AERIAL SURVEY IN 1971 BUT WASHINGTON HAD DECIDED NOT TO GO AHEAD WITH THE PROJECT. WHEN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT BROACHED THE PROPOSAL FOR AN AERIAL SURVEY AGAIN IN 1972, THE THAI SUPREME COMMAND HAD SECOND THOUGHTS AND REFUSED TO AGREE. WHEN THE CODEL RAISED THIS ISSUE WITH PRAPHAT, HE SAID THAT SECRET

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THERE WAS ALREADY A "JOINT U.S.-THAI MAPPING" VENTURE UNDER WAY, AND THAT THE THAI SAW NO NECESSITY FOR ANOTHER ONE (REFTEL A). (THERE IS ACTUALLY A LONG-RANGE UNILATERAL THAI AERIAL SURVEY ABOUT TO GET UNDERWAY, BUT FOR OTHER PURPOSES AND WITH LOW PRIORITY FOR THE NORTH WHERE THE OPIUM GROWS.) THIS IS PROBABLY WHAT PRAPHAT HAD IN MIND, SINCE THERE IS NO JOINT VENTURE UNDERWAY. WE ARE LOOKING INTO POSSIBILITY OF ACCELERATING WORK ON THAI OPERATION AND SHIFTING EMPHASIS TO MEET DEVELOPMENT NEEDS IN TRIBAL AREAS.)

5. INCOME SUBSTITUTION. THE CODEL REPEATEDLY ASKED HOW
WE COULD KEEP THE HILLTRIBES FROM GROWING OPIUM. WE EXPLAINED (AS DID THAI OFFICIALS) THAT THE RTG WILL NOT (AND PROBABLY
CANNOT) STOP THE HILLTRIBES FROM GROWING OPIUM UNTIL IT
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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-03 ADP-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 RSR-01

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PR 221151Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5915

INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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AMCONSUL UDORN BY POUCH

AMCONSUL HONG KONG BY POUCH

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DEFEAATED. THAI OFFICIALS EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THEY COULD ENFORCE THE LAW ON OPIUM CULTIVATION ONCE ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF INCOME ARE AVAILABLE BUT REITERATED THAT THEY COULD NOT DO SO BEFORE FOR SECURITY AND OTHER REASONS.

SEVERAL MEMBERS EXPRESSED THEIR VIEW THAT WE SHOULD PAY THE HILLTRIBES TO STOP GROWING OPIUM EVEN WITHOUT A SUBSTITUTE CROP THAT WOULD BRING A PRICE AS HIGH AS THAT OF OPIUM. WE BRIEFD THEM ON THE DIFFICULTIES OF SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT, PARTICULARLY WHEN OPIUM PRODUCTION IN MUCH GREATER VOLUME CONTINUED IN BURMA; SOME MEMBERS OF THE CODEL NONETHELESS INDICATED INTEREST IN PURSUING THIS CONCEPT FURTHER.

6. UN OFFICIALS POINTED OUT THE NEED FOR A MARKETING STRUCTURE TO SELL WHATEVER CROPS ARE SUBSTITUTED FOR OPIUM. DR. WALLACE MANIS OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN CHIANG MAI DESCRIBED THE RESEARCH HE IS DOING ON CROPS THAT WILL GROW BETWEEN 3000 AND 5000 FEET ELEVATION. ASKED SECRET

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BY REP. WOLFF IF THERE WERE ANY RESTRICTIONS ON CROPS WITH WHICH USDA COULD EXPERIMENT, MANIS SAID HE IS NOT ALLOWED TO EXPERIMENT WITH TOBACCO, COTTON, OR SOY BEANS SINCE WE EXPORT THESE COMMODITIES. REP. WOLF THOUGHT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WOULD BE WILLING TO CHANGE SOME OF THESE RESTRICTIONS OF PREVIOUS YEARS. THE CODEL ALSO ASKED ABOUT IMPROVING HEALTH CONDITIONS OR BUILDING ROADS IN THE TRIBAL AREAS, AND WE HAVE BRIEFINGS ON WHAT THE RTG IS DOING IN THIS FIELD.

7. UN PROGRAMS. UNFDAC PROJECT OFFICIALS IN BANGKOK AND CHIANG MAI DESCRIBED THEIR CROP SUBSTITUTION EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM AFFECTING 30 VILLAGES. THEY SAID THAT THEY NEED

\$100,000 TO PURCHASE THE CROPS GROWN BY THESE VILLAGES IN PLACE OF OPIUM DURING THE COMING GROWING SEASON, BUT ARE HAVING DIFFICULTY OBTAINING THIS MONEY FROM THE UN IN GENEVA. PROJECT LEADER IAN WILLIAMS ESTIMATED THAT THE NET COST WOULD BE ONLY ABOUT \$18,000 SINCE THE KIDNEY BEANS THAT WOULD BE GROWN COULD BE SOLD AT A PRICE SLIGHTLY BELOW THE PURCHASE PRICE NECESSARY TO INDUCE THE VILLAGERS TO SHIFT FROM OPIUM CULTIVATION TO BEANS. REP. WOLFF REPLIED THAT, AS THE AUTHOR OF A PROPOSED SPECIAL \$7 AND ONE-HALF USAID NAR-COTICS FUND FOR USE IN THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE, HE WOULD DO WHAT HE COULD TO GET THE \$100,000 FOR THIS YEAR'S PROGRAM. CONSUL MONTGOMERY POINTED OUT THAT THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT PREVENTS THE USG FROM USING USAID FUNDS TO PURCHASE CROPS ABROAD THAT THE U.S. EXPORTS. REP. WOLFF SAID THAT WE CONTRIBUTE \$4 MILLION OF THE \$5 MILLION GIVEN TO UNFDAC EACH YEAR AND SHOULD HAVE SOME INFLUENCE OVER HOW IT IS SPENT.

- 8. ALLEGED PRC INVOLVEMENT. CODEL WOLFF ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS ANY EVIDENCE OF PRC INVOLVEMENT IN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING. WE REPLIED THAT WE HAD NO EVIDENCE WHATEVER OF PRC INVOLVEMENT.
- 9. CHINESE IRREGULAR FORCES. REP. WOLFF SEVERAL TIMES
 BROUGHT UP REPORTS OF CONTINUED TRAFFICKING OF CIF FORCES DESPITE
 THE RTG AGREEMENT WITH GENERALS LI AND TUAN TO GET OUT OF
 THE OPIM TRADE. FIELD MARSHAL PRAPHAT POINTED OUT THAT
 THE RTG HAS PUT LI AND TUAN UNDER SURVEILLANCE AND CAN
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EXERT PRESSURE ON THEM, BUT DOES NOT HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO FORCE ALL THE CIF OUT OF THE OPIUM TRAFFICKING BUSINESS. WE TOLD WOLFF IN OUR RESTRICTED MEETINGS THAT THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT SOME OF THE CIF ARE ENGAGED IN THE TRAFFIC BUT THE DEGREE OF CONTROL WHICH LI AND TUAN HAVE OVER THESE ELEMENTS, PARTICULARLY IN BURMA, IS NOT CLEARLY ESTABLISHED.

10. U.S. MILITARY DRUG ABUSE PROGRAMS. CODEL WOLFF RECEIVED BRIEFINGS ON U.S. MILITARY NARCOTICS PROGRAMS IN BANGKOK AND UDORN. CODEL MEMBERS ASKED SEVERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT DRUG USAGE AND TRAFFICKING BY U.S. SERVICEMEN. U.S. MILITARY OFFICIALS DESCRIBED THE SYSTEM OF RANDOM URINALYSIS WHICH IS USED ON MILITARY PERSONNEL OF ALL RANKS BELOW THE AGE OF 29, AND BY WHICH INDIVIDUALS ARE GIVEN ONLY A FEW HOURS ADVANCE NOTICE. TESTS AT UDORN RTAFB DURING JULY 1973 CONFIRMED DRUG USAGE IN ONLY 12 OF 1852 INDIVIDUALS TESTED. MILITARY OFFICIALS ALSO DESCRIBED THE MEASURES TAKEN TO PREVENT NARCOTICS FROM BEING TRANSPORTED TO THE U.S. VIA MILITARY CARRIERS, SHIPMENT OF MATERIAL, OR THROUGH THE APO.

11 RTG COOPERATION AND USG ASSISTANCE. THE CODEL REPEATEDLY

EXPRESSED ITS SATISFACTION WITH THE IMPROVEMENT IN RTG NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION EFFORTS IN THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. MEMBERS OF THE CODEL ALSO SEEMED FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY THE THAI POLICE OFFICIALS THEY MET. REP. WOLFF, HOWEVER, EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN IN HIS INITIAL MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR OVER "AID RESTRICTIONS" (AS, FOR EXAMPLE THOSE WHICH RESTRICT OUR ABILITY TO HELP THE TRIBES SHIFT TO ALTERNATE CROPS) AND OVER DELAYS, ABOUT WHICH THAI OFFICIALS COMPLAINED, IN PROVIDING RAPID ASSISTANCE TO THE RTG. WE POINTED THAT SOME OF THSES RESTRICTIONS ARE EMBODIED IN LEGISLATION.

12. WEAPONS FOR POLICE. WOLFF ASKED THE AMBASSADOR WHETHER IT WAS DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN EQUIPMENT FOR THE THAI POLICE. AMBASSADOR UNGER SAID THAT WE UNDERSTOOD CONGRESS HAD ELIMINATED MILITARY TYPE WEAPONS FROM USG AID PROGRAMS. WOLFF SAID THAT HE DID NOT THINK THAT THIS RESTRICTION APPLIES TO THE ANTI-NARCOTICS PORTION OF OUR AID PROGRAM. AMBASSADOR UNGER NOTED THAT THIS WAS NOT THE DECISION THAT HAD BEEN CONVEYED TO US.

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13. CONCLUSION. THE VISIT TO THAILAND GAVE THE CODEL, ESPECIALLY REP. WOLFF, A CHANCE TO SEE FIRST-HAND RTG PRO-GRESS IN NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION, WOLFF ACKNOWLEDGED THAT MANY OF HIS EARLIER CRITICISMS OF RTG EFFORTS TO HALT THE FLOW OF NARCOTICS FROM THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE THROUGH THAILAND TO FOREIGN MARKETS ARE NO LONGER APPLICABLE. LIKE US, HE IS FAR FROM COMPLACENT ABOUT THE CURRENT STATEOF AFFAIRS, HOWEVER, HE BELIEVES THAT THE RTG SHOULD DO MUCH MORE, ESPECIALLY TO END THE GROWING OF OPIUM POPPIES ON THAI TERRITORY. HE IS CRITICAL OF USG SLOWNESS IN PROVIDING AID TO THE RTG BOTH FOR ENFORCEMENT AND FOR INCOME SUBSTITUTION FOR THE HILLTRIBES, COMPLAINTS BY THAI OFFICIALS ABOUT TOO MANY SURVEYS AND NOT ENOUGH ASSISTANCE SEEM TO HAVE CONFIRMED WOLFF'S EARLIER CONVICTION THAT AID IS FAILINY TO REACT QUICKLY AND FLEX-IBLY DESPITE OUR BRIEFINGS ON WHAT AID HAS DONE HERE AND EXCELLENT AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONS BETWEEN USOM AND OTHER ELEMENTS OF MISSION. HE IS LIKELY TO DEMAND GREATER USG EFFORTS, ESPECIALLY TOW-ARD SECURING AN AERIAL SURVEY OF POPPYGROWING AREAS, EITHER DE NOVO OR BY ADAPTING ON-GOING EFFORTS. STOPPING THE CIF FROM TRAFFICKING, AND PAYING THE HILLTRIBES TO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE INCOME THEY RECEIVE FROM OPIUM.

14. ONE OTHER ASPECT OF THE CODEL VISIT IS DISCUSSED IN BANGKOK 12908 (NOTAL). UNGER

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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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Subject: CODEL WOLFF VISIT TO THAILAND TAGS: OREP, SNAR, TH, (WOLFF, LESTER)
To: STATE INFO RANGOON

SEOUL TAIPEI TOKYO **GENEVA DEA HQS** SAIGON BY POUCH
VIENTIANE BY POUCH
CHIANG MAI BY POUCH
UDORN BY POUCH
HONG KONG BY POUCH
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